



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 7, 2004

H.J. Res. 83

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the appointment of individuals to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 5, 2004

H.J. Res. 83 would propose amending the Constitution to provide for the continuity of the House of Representatives if a majority of Members become unable to fulfill their responsibilities. For it to become effective, the legislatures of three-fourths of the states would need to ratify the proposed amendment within seven years. By itself, this resolution would have no impact on the federal budget. If the proposed amendment is approved by the states, the federal government could incur administrative expenses to implement it, but CBO estimates that such costs, if any, would be minimal. Enacting H.J. Res. 83 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.J. Res. 83 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Although the amendment could only take effect upon approval by three-fourths of the state legislatures, no state would be required to take action on the resolution, either to reject it or to approve it.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Matthew Pickford (for federal costs) and Sarah Puro (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.